



# St. Thomas News



PREACHING, TEACHING AND REACHING  
THROUGH THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

FEB 2026

Recently I was over in Petoskey visiting a member who was in the hospital. As I was 'buzzing in' to have them open the door – in that moment I didn't say that I was a pastor ... only that I was there to see someone, giving the person's name ... I was told to wait and they would send out a nurse to get me. It was then they asked for my name and I said "Pastor Dave."

A moment later a lady, whom I had noticed on a phone over to the side, approached me. She said, "You're a pastor?" and I responded "Yes." She proceeded to tell me why she was there. A relative had been hit by a vehicle ... they had no idea what condition this person was even in ... and they just wanted prayers. I'm sure prayers for the person who was being admitted, but also for them as family. Our conversation was very brief as a nurse then arrived for me, but even without knowing the name, I could assure her that I would keep all in prayer ... and I did ... placing them in God's loving, caring hands.

I think often about that encounter. For me it was unexpected, but I pray in responding during a time of need, that for her it provided a sense of comfort. That comfort comes not from me – not directly – but through me, a reminder of the promise of God to be present in our lives. God's presence is felt through the gift of the Holy Spirit, but I think also God works through us in our openness and willingness to be present in attending to and addressing the needs of those around us.

As we journey through this month of February a couple things come to mind.

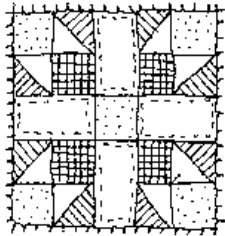
For many, Valentines Day stands out – the celebration of love. Of course when we think of human love what comes to mind is the love for a spouse, partner or family member. We generally celebrate with simple actions – going out to dinner, flowers, chocolate or expressing our love through the words we speak.

Yet, my other thought takes me to the Lenten journey that begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. We think of Christ's love, the forgiveness and grace that is offered, as well as the teachings that guide us in our living. But even more so we think of the amazing love of God that gives to us, in the Christ Child of whom we just celebrated in Christmas, one named Jesus who comes to save us from our sins. The most familiar of Scripture verses: "*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*" (John 3:16) It begins in Christ's birth, but is then fulfilled in the cross on Golgotha, as we remember that saving act that cost Jesus his life.

An act that Jesus carries out in love. Jesus, one who is no longer physically present, and yet one we can call on in times of need. May we know the promise, the comfort, and the peace of a God who was willing to give everything for us.

Journeying together ... with Christ ... in that promise! + *Pastor Dave*

**MISSION QUILT GROUP**



If you would like to sew quilt tops together please speak with Nancy Ostwald, Diane McCarthy or call the church office. Thanks to all who gather once a month to put quilts together for folks in need all over the world.

**February 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am**

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Would you like to knit or crochet a prayer shawl for someone in need of healing or comfort? Contact the church office for a pattern and instructions.



**St. Thomas  
Together Lifting Children  
Ministry Program**



TLC confidentially provides new clothing, winter-wear and hygiene items to Cheboygan area students in need as identified by school personnel.

**95 orders filled since Sept 2025**

*Thank you to all who support the TLC ministry program through donations, memorials, prayer and service!*

**Please remember our local students in your prayers +**

*Thank you to all of our team members and volunteers who help to keep the church moving in ministry and mission, worship and praise!*

**ST. THOMAS FOOD PANTRY**  
**“Serving Others, Serving Christ”**  
**Food Distribution to  
Cheboygan County**

➡ **Food Distribution Hours** ⚡  
**Monday 10:00 am to Noon**  
Inside client choice distribution  
**Monday 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm**  
Outside drive-thru distribution

The Pantry serves families in Cheboygan County in need of food supplements. God Bless our volunteers! Feeding America Teams stock the Pantry Mondays & Fridays, between 9am-Noon



There is a box for donations of non-perishable food items at the back of the church. Food donations can be dropped off Mon-Fri on the table in the entrance to the parish ed unit.

**Welcome Bags**

**White “Welcome Bags” are available on the table at the back of the church for our first-time guests at worship!**



**If you meet a first-time guest on Sunday, please share a Welcome Bag with them!**

**HANDBELL CHOIR**

Our handbell choir is a great way to “make a joyful noise unto the Lord” and enhance the worship experience. Curious? Speak to Handbell Director Ann Douglas or call the church office: 231-627-3167. Handbell practice takes place every Wednesday at 5:30 pm in the church balcony.



## **SUNDAY SERVICES**

**8:00 am and 10:30 am in-person worship**

8:00 am Live-Stream ~ worship online

ST. THOMAS WEBSITE: [www.stthomas-elca.org](http://www.stthomas-elca.org)

FACEBOOK: search for: @StThomasCheboyganMI

YOUTUBE: [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) Search "St. Thomas Cheboygan"

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:30 AM**

## **SUNDAY LESSONS**

**FEB 1** Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

**FEB 8** Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]; Psalm 112:1-9 [10]; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16];  
Matthew 5:13-20

**FEB 15** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

**FEB 22** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**9:15am in the upper level Sunday school classrooms**

**Students age 4 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
are invited to learn and grow in God's love!**

***All Are Welcome ~ Bring A Friend!***



## **NOISY OFFERING: February 15<sup>th</sup>**

The Sunday School would like to thank all who share their spare change with the Noisy Offerings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month! Your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters help in our mission to support "God's Global Barnyard" through which we purchase farm animals, honeybees, crops, water access and education to help folks in need move toward living sustainable lives.

**~Small change makes a BIG change in the lives of others~**





**MEN'S  
BIBLE  
STUDY**

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Meet at St. Thomas-bring your coffee!  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month 8:30-9:30 am

**FEBRUARY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

**PROJECTOR/livestream**

**8AM projector**  
FEB 1 Marie  
FEB 8 Elizabeth  
FEB 15 Ann  
FEB 22 Angie

**10:30 AM projector**  
Bill  
Adele  
Barb  
Kari

**8AM  
cameras/livestream**  
Ann  
Marie  
Marie  
Mike

**GREETERS**

**8:00 AM**  
FEB 1 Char  
FEB 8 Piper  
FEB 15 Jerry & Pat  
FEB 22 Sandy

**10:30 AM**  
Nancy  
Bob & Shirley  
Helen  
Dorothy

**ALTAR GUILD**  
Cheryl/Communion  
Sue/Paraments, Flowers

**READERS**

**8:00 AM**  
FEB 1 Jeff  
FEB 8 Shelli  
FEB 15 Sue  
FEB 22 Ann

**10:30 AM**  
Kim  
Kevin  
Joan  
Becky

**LADIES BUNCH FOR LUNCH**

Tuesday, Feb 10<sup>th</sup> at Noon  
at Mulligans Restaurant  
All ladies are welcome



**FRIENDSHIP  
CIRCLE  
Monday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:00 pm in  
church library.  
Hostess: Barb**

**TEAM MEETINGS**

**Worship & Music**  
Tues Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:30pm

**Audit Team**  
Wed Feb 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am

**Parish Education**  
Wed Feb 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm

**Evangelism/Stewardship**  
winter break/next mtg Apr 16 at 6pm

**PREACHING, TEACHING AND REACHING  
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*St. Thomas Lutheran Church*  
**FEB 2026 NEWS**

**FEBRUARY 2026**

**SUN MON TUES WED THURS FRI SAT**

1 8:00 am & 10:30 am Holy Communion *9:15 am Sunday School	2 10am-Noon 4-5:30 pm Pantry Open	3 *3:30 pm Worship & Music Team	4 *9am Audit Team *5:30pm Handbell Choir *6:30pm AlAnon Parish Ed Unit	5	6 *9:00 am Feeding America Team	7
8 8:00 am & 10:30 am Holy Communion *9:15 Sunday School *9:30am Ann Metting	9 10am-Noon 4-5:30 pm Pantry Open  *7pm Friendship Circle at church	10 *Noon Bunch for Lunch at Mulligans	11 *8:30 am Men's Bible Study *5:30pm Handbell Choir *6pm Christian Ed Team Mtg *6:30pm AlAnon Parish Ed Unit	12	13 9:00 am Feeding America Team	14
15 8:00 am & 10:30 am Holy Communion *9:15 Sunday School *Noisy Offering	16 10am-Noon 4-5:30 pm Pantry Open	17 *10am Quilting Bee  *5:30 pm Church Council Mtg	18 *5:30pm Handbell Choir *6:30pm AlAnon Parish Ed Unit *11am & 7 pm <b>ASH WED</b> services	19	20 9:00 am Feeding America Team	21
22 8:00 am & 10:30 am Holy Communion *9:15 Sun Sch	23 10am-Noon 4-5:30 pm Pantry Open	24	25 *8:30am Men's Bible Study *11am Lent service/lunche on *5:30pm Handbell Choir *6:30pm AlAnon Parish Ed Unit	26	27 9:00 am Feeding America Team	28

**BUILDING FUND PROJECTS UPDATE**

Our fundraising for the sanctuary air conditioning and parking lot update is ongoing. The A/C cost will total \$25,000 and the parking lot \$44,000. *Thank you* to everyone for their generosity in giving. As of this writing we are at 75% of our goal - **God has surely blessed this effort, thank you for your continued giving.**



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**JESUS CHRIST, THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER**  
**Hebrews 13:8**

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**ALTAR FLOWERS** ✿

- 1.** Sign up on the wall chart at the back of the church to donate flowers for the altar in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special date
- 2.** Call your florist to order flowers (florist must use our vase liners available in kitchen if flowers will be in gold vases)
- 3.** Call the church office or write on the back of your green card wording for bulletin

**LENT AND HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERIES**  
"Dying His Death, Living His Life"

ASH WED <i>Dying to Sin, Living in Forgiveness</i>	<b>February 18<sup>th</sup></b>	11am & 7 pm services	
MID-WEEK LENT 1 <i>Dying to Pride, Living for Others</i>	<b>February 25<sup>th</sup></b>	11am service	luncheon follows
MID-WEEK LENT 2 <i>Dying to Greed, Living for the Treasures of Heaven</i>	<b>March 4<sup>th</sup></b>	11am service	luncheon follows
MID-WEEK LENT 3 <i>Dying to Doubt, Living by Faith</i>	<b>March 11<sup>th</sup></b>	11am service	luncheon follows
MID WEEK LENT 4 <i>Dying to Turmoil, Living in Peace</i>	<b>March 18<sup>th</sup></b>	11am service	luncheon follows
MID WEEK LENT 5 <i>Dying to Judgment, Living in Grace</i>	<b>March 25<sup>th</sup></b>	11am service	luncheon follows
<b>HOLY WEEK:</b>			
PALM SUNDAY	<b>March 29<sup>th</sup></b>	8:00 & 10:30 am services	
MAUNDY THURSDAY	<b>April 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	7:00 pm service	
GOOD FRIDAY	<b>April 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	12:15 pm service	
RESURRECTION SUNDAY	<b>April 5<sup>th</sup></b>	8:00 & 10:30 am services pancake breakfast between services	

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**Mid-week Lent Luncheons**

*Thanks to Bunny Bohn & Shar Landrie for leading this year  
and all who support this tradition at St. Thomas*



AFTER LENTEN WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS  
(11:00 AM FEB 25, MAR 4, 11, 18, 25)  
ALL ARE WELCOME TO GATHER IN THE CHURCH BASEMENT FOR A  
SOUP, SANDWICH AND DESSERT LUNCHEON AND FELLOWSHIP.

***Would you consider donating a crockpot of  
soup, sandwiches or dessert bars/cookies?  
Sign up sheet located on the table in the  
Fellowship Room.***